

Rick served the Georgia GOP for 25 years as the president and a national board member of the State Young Republicans, and 4th District chairman.

He had a tremendous impact on his fellow staff, the chairmen of the State Party, and all 159 counties in Georgia through his humble and hard-working attitude.

Rick was not only the party's "go-to guy" for history on any level but a great friend to all who knew him.

Rick's father and mother should take great pride in raising a son who touched many lives and will continue to do so in the days ahead.

In return, Rick, who lost his father at a young age, stayed by his surviving mother of 92, whom he cared for and loved.

Today, may we reflect on Rick's singular character and the tremendous work he did for Georgia, his family, and country.

Let us not forget him—a proud son, faithful servant, and example of what it means to be a selfless leader.

IRANIAN GOVERNMENT IS INHUMAN, BARBARIC, AND A TERROR ON THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in Iran there is no freedom of speech or press. Criticize the government of Iran and you can be arrested, tortured, and even killed. The MEK, an opposition group that only wants freedom for the Iranian people, has seen that firsthand. Hundreds of its members have been executed for doing nothing more than protesting the government.

It isn't just political dissidents who are persecuted in Iran. There is no freedom of religion in Iran. If you are not a Shiite Muslim, you never know when you might be dragged off to jail.

Just like religious minorities, women too are treated like second-class citizens and denied basic human rights. Domestic violence, that evil tactic of cowardly men, is not illegal in Iran. In October, a string of acid attacks injured women deemed "badly veiled." Again, the people rose up. But these protestors were also met with tear gas, violent beatings, and arrests.

But there's a remarkable thing, Mr. Speaker, about repression: it cannot suppress the innate desire in all of us to be free.

In 2009, we saw the people of Iran fight against tyranny. Thousands of Iranians marched defiantly in the streets, protesting the fraudulent election of Ahmadinejad.

In response, police on motorbikes ran over protestors, fired tear gas, beat them with batons, tortured them, shot them. Over a hundred protestors were murdered in the 2 weeks that followed the election.

Today, President Rouhani would like us to believe that life in Iran has changed. The truth is that life in Iran has not changed. President Rouhani's words are empty lies.

The Iranians are freedom-loving people, and they deserve the basic human rights. Today, with this bill we tell the people of Iran that they do not fight alone. That we stand together with them against the Supreme Leader and all his

cronies. And one day, hopefully soon, we will stand with them in Tehran to celebrate the downfall of the Iranian regime.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING HONORARY CONSUL BERJ K. APKARIAN

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues Mr. NUNES and Mr. VALADAO to recognize Mr. Berj K. Apkarian upon his appointment as the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno. This is a monumental occasion for not only Berj but for Fresno's entire Armenian community.

In 1979, Berj immigrated to Fresno, California, from Syria, and he has since been a very active member of Fresno's Armenian-American community. He is the Executive Director of Physician Relations at Community Medical Centers and is also a professor at California State University, Fresno, where he leads the Armenian Studies Program and the Center for Armenian Studies.

In 2009, the City of Fresno established a sister city partnership with the city of Etchmiadzin in Armenia. The partnership enhances the bond between Fresno and Armenia, and Berj was instrumental in forming the relationship. To further strengthen our city's ties with Armenia, the Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Armenia was established on August 14, 2014.

As Honorary Consul, Berj will continue to play an integral role in strengthening our Valley's relationship with Armenia. In addition to forming a stronger relationship with Armenia, Berj plans to take a team of medical professionals to Armenia to educate and provide healthcare services for residents living in rural communities.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that Mr. NUNES, Mr. VALADAO, and I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. Berj K. Apkarian as he begins to serve as the first Honorary Consul of the Republic of Armenia in Fresno.

CELEBRATING PULMONARY HYPERTENSION AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join those celebrating the month of November as Pulmonary Hypertension Awareness Month and to thank the Pulmonary Hypertension Association for its work in furthering understanding of this life-changing disease.

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is a chronic, complex, and life-threatening lung disease marked by elevated blood pressure in the lungs. The Pulmonary Hypertension Association (PHA) is a nonprofit organization that seeks ways to prevent and cure pulmonary hypertension and to provide hope for the PH community through support, education, advoca-

cacy and awareness. I am particularly proud of the work that the PHA Midwest Chapter is doing to provide support for people living with pulmonary hypertension and those who care for them. Their efforts to raise awareness and push for research into improved treatments and, ultimately, a cure are critical.

PHA is a young organization that is changing the history of this illness. From simple beginnings—four women around a kitchen table in Florida in 1990—PHA has evolved in size and complexity. When the association was founded, there were no support groups to help individuals and caregivers cope with this disease. Today, PHA serves more than 13,000 members and supporters with over 245 support groups that provide knowledge, support, hope and empowerment for the PH community. PHA continues to work every day to find a cure for pulmonary hypertension and believes that no one should face this disease alone.

On November 22, PHA Midwest and the PH community will mark Pulmonary Hypertension Month by hosting the inaugural O2 breathe Hearts PHor Hope Gala. The gala is an opportunity both to focus attention and to recognize the accomplishments and advances made in the PH field, while honoring those who made these advances possible. This special evening will honor Stuart Rich, MD, Clinical Professor of Medicine at the University of Chicago Medicine with the 2014 Heart PHor Hope Legacy Award. A dedicated researcher, passionate physician and continuous supporter of PHA, Dr. Rich has been a groundbreaking leader in the pulmonary hypertension field for more than three decades and continues to show his dedication and support of the PH community.

The PHA Midwest Chapter is a valuable resource, and I am grateful for the job that it is doing to raise awareness through next week's gala and the annual marathon, to provide assistance, and to push for greater research and medical breakthroughs.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHELE MARLENE VENABLE

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michele Marlene Venable and extend my condolences to her family.

Michele, a resident of Florida's 23rd Congressional District and a long-time constituent of mine from the city of Hollywood, tragically passed away on November 8th after a battle with stomach cancer.

All of us that knew Michele could tell you that she represented the very best in our community.

She was dedicated to selflessly helping others, putting her community first, and empowering the most vulnerable.

She was a beacon of light for so many.

She will be tremendously missed, but never forgotten by our South Florida community.

I will remember Michele most for her work as Director of Social Services at the Jubilee Center of Broward County.

In this position, Ms. Venable coordinated delivering food, clothing, and vital personal

items to Broward County's homeless and needy.

She also worked to connect countless numbers of South Floridians with legal aid, veteran's services, Medicaid assistance, and emergency shelters.

She has capably led the Jubilee Center over the past decade and raised it to new heights.

It is worth noting that Volunteer Broward recently honored the Center as the "Agency of the Year" for all volunteer groups serving Broward County.

This is a tribute to Michele's tireless and fierce leadership.

She always demanded the best from herself and those around her in the service of others.

Poverty and despair can be powerful forces in society, but they certainly met their match when confronted by Michele's force of will to bring hope to others.

It is also not surprising that before her tireless efforts at the Jubilee Center, she served our community through her ministry work as a pastor.

Anyone who has ever worked with her will tell you that Michele was driven by an astounding love for people.

I and many of my Congressional District Office staff as well as my children, have had the honor of joining Michele every year to help the Jubilee Center serve Thanksgiving dinner to the less fortunate in our community—a job Michele did with grace and pride.

This year on Thanksgiving we will again gather to help our community—Michele Venable's community.

I am sure that we will all be missing Michele's warm smile and bright disposition.

But we honor her memory if we carry on her amazing commitment to helping those less fortunate in our community.

In this way her spirit of compassionate altruism lives on and inspires others to walk in her footsteps.

In this time of Thanksgiving, I give thanks for Michele Venable and a life well lived in service to our South Florida community.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE ANNUAL COWBOY CHRISTMAS COOK-OFF

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the annual Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off which takes place each December, in Mission, Texas.

The Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off is an International Barbecue Cookers Association state championship event; the occasion features a festive combination of good music and good eating, with proceeds benefiting the Silver Ribbon Community Partners, who provide emergency relief assistance and educational programs for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Talented barbecue chefs from Texas face off to see who can cook up the tastiest brisket, pork spareribs, and chicken. The Cowboy Christmas Cook-Off is an exciting time for young and old alike and is a much-anticipated gathering for residents of South Texas.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize this celebration of Lone Star-style food and music and I thank you for this time.

RECOGNIZING JOHN HARRIS

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. John Harris for being the recipient of the 2014 Agriculturist of the Year award from the Greater Fresno Area Chamber of Commerce. John has made countless contributions to California's agricultural economy, and his efforts deserve to be honored.

John was born into a family with strong agricultural roots. His parents grew cotton and grain on their family farm. John attended the University of California at Davis (UC Davis), and later, founded Harris Ranch. Harris Ranch is one of the leading producers of agricultural goods in the nation. His products include: almonds, pistachios, citrus, and various vegetable crops.

Under John's leadership, Harris Ranch has been a leading beef producer in California's Central Valley for years. Additionally, Harris Ranch is the largest cattle feeder ranch in the state, and it produces over 150 million pounds of beef a year.

Harris Ranch also breeds thoroughbred racing horses. This year, Harris Ranch received national media attention because of the racing horse champion, California Chrome.

John served as the president of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Association and is currently a member of the executive committee in the association. John is also a member of the California Horse Racing Board and served as a chairman in 2004, 2005 and 2009. He also is a member of the Jockey Club, and is a very dedicated man to the sport of horse racing.

John is an active community member, and he is a strong supporter of Saint Agnes Medical, the California Cattlemen's Association, and Western Growers Association. Additionally, he supports agricultural education and donates to UC Davis, California State University, Fresno, and the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great respect that I ask our colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to recognize Mr. John Harris. He is truly deserving of this recognition, and I thank him for all of the contributions he has made to California's San Joaquin Valley.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. MEREDITH CARTER FOR HIS 32 YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO HAMILTON COUNTY, INDIANA

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding career and accomplishments of Dr. Meredith Carter. For more than three decades, Dr. Carter has served as an educator, nonprofit administrator, member of the Hamilton County Council and so much more.

Born on May 27, 1939, in Cutler, Indiana, Dr. Carter is a lifelong Hoosier. After graduating from Cutler High School, Dr. Carter

earned both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in biology from Butler University. He then went on to earn an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Ball State University.

Dr. Carter began his tenure on the Hamilton County Council on January 1, 1983. Since then, he has been a leading contributor to the exceptional economic growth and development Hamilton County has experienced. His leadership played a critical role in endeavors such as the building of the County Judicial Center, remodeling of the County Courthouse and the building of multiple transportation infrastructure projects.

Along with his academic achievements and 32 years as an elected official, Dr. Carter is a fixture in the Hoosier education and development communities. Dr. Carter taught for eight years in the public school system before completing a 38 year distinguished tenure as a professor, administrator and chancellor with Ivy Tech Community College. He also serves on the boards of JANUS Development Services, Inc and Aspire Indiana. JANUS is an organization committed to providing individuals with disabilities the opportunity to join the workforce and play an active role in their community. Aspire Indiana provides comprehensive community mental health services, working on issues ranging from youth and family services to helping people overcome substance abuse.

With these accomplishments and many more, it is clear to see that Meredith Carter has been a strong advocate for the people of Hamilton County and the State of Indiana. I am proud to represent a district with a legacy of dedicated public servants like Dr. Carter.

Dr. Carter has dedicated his life in service to Hamilton County, the state of Indiana and the United States. I join the entire Hamilton County community in thanking Dr. Carter for his service and congratulating him on a remarkable career. Although his tenure as an elected official is coming to a close, Hamilton County looks forward to many more years of having Dr. Carter as a key figure in the community.

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2014

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of National Career Development Month.

In conversations with businesses across my home state of Rhode Island, I have been hearing a constant refrain: Employers have job openings but are unable to find local, skilled workers with the expertise necessary to fill the open positions. Meanwhile, job seekers find it hard to acquire these skills without the proper training, a vicious cycle that continues to hold back our economy.

As Co-Chair of the bipartisan Career and Technical Education Caucus, closing the skills gap is one of my top priorities. In order to match students with the skills they need, I have introduced the bipartisan Counseling For Career Choice Act. This bill would help to make sure that school counselors and students know of the full range of options available to them post-graduation. By tracking